



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SDDVA HELPS MARCELLA LEBEAU CELEBRATE 100TH BIRTHDAY

SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Bowen was in Eagle Butte last weekend to help Marcella LeBeau celebrate her 100th Birthday.

Marcella, known by her Lakota name as Wignuke Waste' Win (Pretty Rainbow Woman), enlisted in 1943 and served in the Army Nurse Corps in WWII, reaching the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Marcella received orders to join the 76th General Hospital unit and was shipped out to England, followed by Wales, France and Belgium, supporting the European Theatre Operations and caring for those injured in the Normandy Landings and on the front line during the Battle of the Bulge.

Marcella traveled to France where she was presented with the French Legion of Honor Award. Marcella continues to participate at many veterans' events, speaking of her military experience in World War II.

In 2006, Marcella was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame, being recognized for her military achievements, as well as her 31 years in nursing.

On November 30, 2018, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs announced Marcella LeBeau as "Veteran of the Day." You can view the video at the following links: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2162132900691828> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7WN3Xt4IM4>.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bridges to Honor Veterans.....	2
Sioux Falls Vet Center Update.....	3
Pine Ridge Town Hall	3
VA Rural Health Care	4
196th MEB	5
Social Security COLA	6
Jackson Dental	7
Upcoming Events.....	8

GOVERNOR NOEM KICKS OFF NEW PROJECT NAMING BRIDGES AFTER FALLEN HEROES

Governor Kristi Noem is set to unveil a new program to name state bridges for South Dakota Veterans who died in combat.

The South Dakota Department of the Military, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, and the South Dakota Department of Transportation will be working collectively to carry out this mission.

This team estimates that six state bridges will be named per year under Governor Noem's program. The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed an application form and will be working closely with County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers and Veterans Service Organizations to identify heroes in respective regions.

"This is a daily reminder of the heroism and sacrifices made through the years by all of our veterans," said South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Greg Whitlock. "We are proud to honor our heroes. Their courage and dedication set a lasting example for all of us."

SDDVA will also develop a segment of our website to share the story of the heroes the bridges are named after. For generations to come, as people pass over the bridge, they're going to know that person made a huge sacrifice for their freedom. Their stories will live on forever.

South Dakota's first state bridge will be named and unveiled Monday, November 25, 2019, at 1:30 pm (MT) in Hot Springs.

SDDVA will be disseminating application forms, as well as have the form posted on SDDVA's website.



SIoux FALLS VET CENTER TO HOST EDUCATION GROUP

The Financial Peace-Military Education Group is designed to help Veterans and their significant others, if they are in a relationship to develop and implement financial planning that can help to manage money more effectively. The purpose is to provide tools to improve skills and planning to better manage the available income.

This group will meet Thursday, October 10, 2019, through December 19, 2019, at the Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W 49th Street) from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm (CT). They won't be meeting on October 31st and November 28th.

Questions should be directed to: Morris Patzlaff at the Sioux Falls Vet Center 605) 330-4552.



PINE RIDGE TOWN HALL

Oglala Sioux Tribal Veterans Service Officer Shawnee Red Bear and her team hosted a Veterans Town Hall Wednesday in Pine Ridge.

Joining the veterans was Robert P. McDivitt, FACHE, the director of the VA Midwest Health Care Network, and Sandra Horsman, director of VA Black Hills Health Care System.

Attendees discussed issues impacting Native American Veterans in highly rural areas, specifically those located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



VA RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY BRINGS HEALTH CARE CLOSER TO HOME FOR RURAL VETERANS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) celebrated its latest telehealth innovation Oct. 16 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6786 in Eureka, Montana, with the grand opening of the first VA Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations ([ATLAS](#)) site which will benefit up to 300 veterans living in that community.

This state-of-the-art remote telehealth exam room is the first of many that will be opened in partnership with veteran service organizations, bringing VA health care closer to rural veterans in their communities and reducing the need for them to travel long distances for select health care appointments.

"Our goal is to make sure every veteran has access to health care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "ATLAS addresses another health care hurdle for veterans living in rural areas or with limited Internet access and it's a great example of how public and private organizations can work together to solve the challenges of health care."

ATLAS exam rooms, provided by the VFW and designed in its partnership with Philips, provide telehealth equipment in a secure and private space, allowing veterans to conduct virtual appointments with VA providers. [Philips](#) is a health technology company focused on improving people's health and enabling better outcomes by leveraging advanced technology and deep clinical and consumer insight

In addition to Eureka, Montana, the 10-site pilot program will have initial locations inside American Legion and VFW Posts in Springfield, Virginia, Los Banos, California and Linesville, Pennsylvania.

"Improving access to care for our nation's veterans is something that will take collaboration across the public and private sector. As

we expand the VA's success in telehealth and move these solutions closer to home, together with forward thinking service organizations, we can give our nation's veterans greater access to the care they deserve," said Vitor Rocha, chief market leader, Philips North America.

There are more than nine million veterans enrolled in the VA health care system with three million living in rural or remote areas and 27% of that population not having internet access at home.

Visit [VA's Connected Care](#) website to learn more about ATLAS or VA's [Anywhere to Anywhere](#) telehealth initiative.



196TH MEB HONES MOBILITY, COMMAND CAPABILITY DURING FTX



More than 200 soldiers with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, spent two weeks training for war Sept. 25-Oct. 12 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Operating entirely out of tents and tactical vans in the forests beneath Mount Rainier, the MEB honed its ability to command and control dozens of subordinate units in a simulated wartime scenario.

The MEB itself is an exercise in teamwork. Utilizing a wide array of military specialties, its mission in wartime is to enable, enhance and protect functional and operational movement through an assigned battle space - typically the area behind the front lines. The unit commands and controls whatever forces are necessary to accomplish that mission.

That means a lot of people, doing a lot of different jobs, have to coordinate efforts to keep roads maintained, enemies repelled, prisoners detained, civilians safe, supplies moving to the front line and humanitarian aid flowing - all from a temporary headquarters that is designed to pack up, move and quickly redeploy in a new area as battle lines shift.

During a site visit, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Marlette, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, said he was extremely impressed with the quality of the staff, the soldiers and the work they were doing in the field.

"They're hitting on all cylinders," he said. "These are good soldiers and they have a good command team in place at all levels. I've been on and around a lot of staffs, and I would put this staff up against any other I have seen."

While this is not the first time the MEB has participated in a warfighter exercise, it is the first chance they have had to operate using tactical vans to increase mobility when the headquarters needs to move. In prior years they only used tents, some of which were time-consuming to set up and tear down.

Lt. Col. Charles Hauck, operations officer-in-charge for the MEB, said there have been some growing pains with the new setup, but it has also given them the opportunity to adapt to the tools they have, which is essential for mission success.

"This is an improvement over the tent setup because we're more nimble and able to jump more quickly, but we aren't as comfortable in the vans as we were in the tents," he said.



196TH MEB (CONTINUED)

He added that the unit did well with the exercise, using the new setup as a chance to get on the equipment and learn (and in some cases, relearn in a new environment) how to best work individually and together in some close quarters.

"We are a learning organization," Hauck said. "We can take a look at ourselves and how things are going and make adjustments as needed. We're allowed to make mistakes and learn from them, and this is the place you want to do it."

Marlette, who was the first commander of the MEB when it was established, said he saw a lot of training value in the exercise and that the unit was performing well in a fast-changing environment.

"These soldiers are putting in a lot of time and effort, and at the end of the day, you want them to get something out of it," he said. "This training is giving them a good return on their investment."

Marlette added that he visited the site so he could look Soldiers in the eye and thank them for their hard work.

"I want to let these soldiers know we appreciate what they're doing, and not just at this exercise," Marlette said. "They're serving their country and I don't ever underestimate what a commitment that is - they have other options and they choose to serve their country. Not many people can say that."



SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2020

The Social Security Administration announces that 69 million Americans will see a 1.6 percent increase in their Social Security and SSI benefits in 2020.

You can find more information about the [2020 COLA here](#).





SMILES FOR
FREEDOM

@Jackson Dental Clinic

November 11th 2019

A DAY FOR OUR ACTIVE OR RETIRED
MILITARY MEMBERS

Donated Dental Service

By Appointment Only

Call Today to Reserve Your Appointment

503 Jackson Street Belle Fourche

605-892-6347

See our Facebook Page for More Details
Call Our Office to Register



Additional treatment may be advised

Primarily day of service include: Preventative maintenance, emergency
treatment or basic restorative needs

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 18—Expo for Her—Sioux Falls Arena—2:00—9:00 pm (CT)
- Oct 18—ERLS Wills for Heroes—Sioux Falls VA Medical Center—Room D39 (2501 W. 22nd Street)—9:00 am—4:00 pm (CT)
- Oct 19—Derr Gala—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Lacroix Hall—Rapid City—(518 6th Street—Suite 2) — 5:00 pm (MT)
- Oct 23—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters (209 N. Garfield Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
- Nov 2—Second Annual Hangar Dance (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit)—Mid America Museum of Aviation—Sioux City, IA—7:00 pm (CT)
- Nov 2—BHSU Hero Appreciation Game— Lyle Hare Stadium—Spearfish—1:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 5—Veteran Stand Down and Resource Fair—Rapid City Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 10—Military and Veterans Dinner—Aberdeen First United Methodist Church (502 S. Lincoln Street)—12:30 pm (CST)
- Nov 11—State Offices Closed
- Nov 11—Smiles for Freedom—Jackson Dental Clinic—Belle Fourche
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Meal—Custer Jr/Sr High School—10:47 am (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Meal—Custer Elementary School—10:50 am (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Ceremony—Veterans Memorial Park—11:11 am (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Potluck Lunch—VFW #3442 Post Home—12:00 noon (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Program—Custer Armory Gym—2:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Social—Custer Armory Lunch Room—3:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 11—Students' Veterans Lunch—Hermosa School—Noon (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Program—Hermosa School—2:15 pm (MT)
- Nov 11—Heroes Reception—Hermosa School—3:15 pm (MT)
- Nov 11—Veterans Soup and Chili Feed—#303 Hermosa Post Home—5:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 14—Veterans Day Program—Elk Mountain School—Elk Mountain—2:30 pm (MT)
- Nov 15—ERLS Wills for Heroes—Sioux Falls VA Medical Center—Room D39 (2501 W. 22nd Street)—9:00 am—4:00 pm (CT)
- Nov 28-29—State Offices Closed
- Dec 3—Governor Noem's Budget Address
- Dec 9—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony—Flaming Fountain Veterans Memorial at Capitol Lake in Pierre—11:00 am (CT)
- Dec—23-25—State Offices Closed



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

2020

Jan 1—State Offices Closed

Jan 14—State of the State Address

Jan 15—SD Veterans Council Legislative Reception

Feb 21-23—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center—
Oacoma

Mar 27-29—SD Vietnam and Era Veterans Reunion—Dakota Sioux Casino—Watertown

May 15-17—DAV State Convention—Brookings

Jun 18-21—American legion State Convention—Huron



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-8242

E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

